THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

Deacon & Peterson, Publishers, NUMBER SIXTY-SIX SOUTH THIRD ST.

Two Dollars Per Annum, In Advance. THREE DOLLARS IF NOT PAID IN ADVANCE.

EDMUND DEACON, HENRY PETERSON, } EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: NEUTRAL IN POLITICS.

{ CLUBS.—FOR TERMS TO CLUBS SEE PROSPECTUS ON NEXT PAGE. }

DEVOTED TO MORALITY, PURE LITERATURE, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC NEWS, AGRICULTURE, THE COMMERCIAL INTEREST, SCIENCE, ART AND AMUSEMENT.

VOLUME XXXIII. PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1854. WHOLE NO. 1707.

Choice Poetry.

HEAVEN.

Oh, Heaven is nearer than mortals think,
 When they look, with a trembling dread,
At the misty future that stretches on
 From the silent home of the dead.

'Tis no lone isle in a boundless main,
 No brilliant but distant shore,
Where the lovely ones, who are called away,
 Must go to return no more.

No; Heaven is near us; the mighty veil
 Of mortality blinds the eye,
That we cannot see the angel bands
 On the shores of eternity.

Yet oft, in the hours of holy thought,
 To the thirsting soul is given
The power to pierce through the mist of sense
 To the beauteous scenes of Heaven.

Then very near seem its pearly gates,
 And sweetly its harpings fall;
Till the soul is restless to soar away,
 And longs for the angel-call.

I know, when the silver-chord is loosed,
 When the veil is rent away,
Not long and dark shall the passage be
 To the realms of endless day.

The eye that shuts in a dying hour,
 Will open the next in bliss;
The welcome will sound in a heavenly world,
 Ere the farewell is hushed in this.

We pass from the clasp of mourning friends,
 To the arms of the loved and lost;
And those smiling faces will greet us then,
 Which here we have valued most.

Original Novelet.

THE BRIDE OF THE WILDERNESS.

(CONCLUDED.)

...

with the Indian thus near to him, he knew it could give him no protection. It was now that his last faint hope deserted him; and with a cry to God for mercy, he fell prostrate on the earth. With a single bound, and a yell of furious triumph, the savage fairly landed upon his back, and raised his tomahawk for the fatal blow.

But the blow was never given. At that instant, so critical to the fate of our hero, a ball pierced the heart of the savage, who fell back dead, with scarcely a groan. Graham felt the hand relax its grasp, at the same moment that the report of a rifle reached his ear; and looking up the hill, as he lay panting on the ground, he beheld a tall, ungainly figure leaping forward through the curling smoke that had issued from his fatal piece. Immediately after, he heard himself greeted with:

"Wall, stranger, I reckon I did it; but ef it warn't about the nearest go that ever I seed, then chaw old Tomahawk Gibbs up with rattle snakes."

"God bless you, sir! you have saved my life!" said Graham, with emotion, gathering

...

enemy was cut off by a slight bend in the hill.

"We may be able to take them by surprise!" he added, as, with his companion, he darted up the hill to the wood.

Gibbs kept close to his side, muttering to himself, as he ran:

"The gal saved, and I not know it! the gal saved, and I not know it! jest chaw me up with rattle-snakes arter that—for I'm not fit to be called a hunter agin. It war the nigger's bones, then, that I seed, and not the gal's! Wall, wall—old Tomahawk Gibbs, arter that thar —— mistake, you kin slide."

Just as Graham entered the wood, he, to his great joy, encountered about twenty of his men coming to his relief. They had heard the firing, and the yells nearest the fort; and divining that an attack had been made upon their friends, had sallied forth for their protection, leaving enough behind to render the place secure.

Informing them, in a few words, what had occurred, Graham sent back one of the number for a reinforcement; and placing himself at the

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fortune would have it, on the very spot where, and at the very time when, he could easily render this effectual service.

"Heaven must have sent you to save my life," said Graham, with emotion; "and while I thank God, I will not forget His humble instrument."

Great was the excitement in the station, when the men returned, bringing in their dead comrades. All were eager for the news; but

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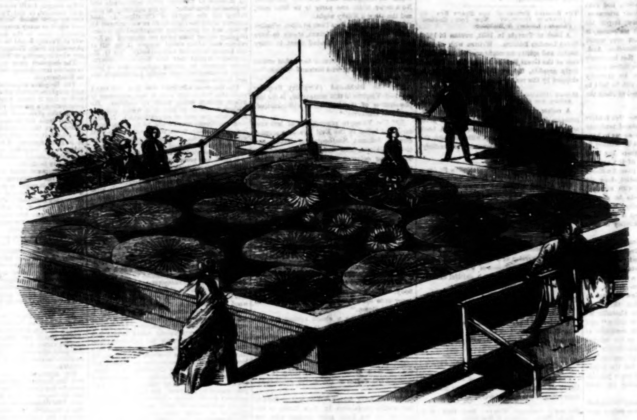
dered illustrious by immortal virtues and immortal deeds.

Nor was he least among them who gave her his heart, his hand, and his name. No! by a noble patriotism, and deeds of valor—not only in the warfare of the borders, but throughout that revolutionary struggle which marks an era in the world's history—George Graham rose to distinction—to high command—and was one of the few who enjoyed the confidence of

...

Our Picture Gallery.



THE GIGANTIC WATER-LILY—VICTORIA REGIA—AT CHATSWORTH, ENGLAND.

The earliest public notice of the discovery of this extraordinary South American Water-lily was given by Dr. Poppig in 1832, who, in his travels through Chili and Peru, records it as growing in the Agaripos, which are large branches of the river Amazon. Before this period, however, other botanical travellers had discovered it—as Haenk (a Spaniard), Bonpland (the companion and fellow-traveller of M. Humboldt), and D'Orbigny (a French botanist). This last gentleman furnished dried specimens of the leaves and flowers to the Museum of Natural History at Paris, in 1828.

In 1837, Sir Robert Schomburgk detected it growing in the river Berbice, in British Guiana, where he was travelling (under the patronage of Her Majesty's Government) on account of the Geographical Society of London. He had specimens collected, and drawings made on the spot, from which the first full description and figure of this wonderful plant were published, the same year.

In 1846 the first seeds were introduced by Mr. Bridges to the Royal Gardens at Kew, from which plants were raised; and from these growing plants, and Sir Robert Schomburgk's drawings, a series of fine plates were prepared by Sir William Hooker, and published in the *Botanical Magazine* for 1847.

The plant now growing at Chatsworth was received from Kew on Friday, August 3rd. It had then only four expanded leaves, and a fifth opened in the course of two days afterwards. The largest of these leaves was 5½ inches across, and about 16½ inches in circumference. The box in which the plant was enclosed when it came is 13½ inches square and 8 inches deep, and was, in every respect, large enough for the purpose.

A tank (12 feet square, and 3 feet 4 inches deep) was prepared in one of the large stoves. About five cartloads of soil were placed in the centre of this; and, when the whole was filled up with water, and had become sufficiently warm, the plant was placed in the centre of the soil—this was on August the 10th. By the end of September 19, leaves had been formed, the largest of which measured 3 feet six inches in diameter, and nearly 11 feet in circumference—at which time it became necessary to enlarge the tank to double its former size, and even now the plant is much cramped, as the largest leaves measure 4 feet 11 inches in diameter, and nearly 14 feet in circumference. The construction of the leaves is also very peculiar, and the weight they are able to sustain is astonishing. An actual experiment (as represented in the engraving) was tried at Chatsworth, by placing a young lady upon one of them, who was borne up for some time with perfect safety. The leaves are also (when separated) very heavy; and Mr. Bridges relates, that, on his discovery of the plant in Bolivia, he was very desirous to collect both leaves, flowers, and seed vessels—these he had suspended to poles, with small cord tied to their stalks. Two Indians—each taking on his shoulder an end of the pole—carried them into the town.

The first flower-bud made its appearance at Chatsworth on Thursday, November 1st, and expanded on Thursday, the 8th. The buds rise about six inches above the surface of the water, beginning to open in the evening; the flowers are then of the purest white, and measure about ten inches across; the following day, towards evening, they begin to exhibit a rich pink in the centre, and during the night they are fully expanded; the numerous outside petals being reflexed and spreading upon the surface of the water, whilst the fine pink centre is elevated nearly erect, altogether forming a most singular and beautiful object. After this expansion the whole of the petals assume a pinkish tint, and the flower gradually becomes flaccid, falls on one side upon the water, and, by the third evening, fades away. During their expansion, they emit a peculiar and pleasant fragrance, not unlike that of some kind of ripe fruit; but after the full expansion, on the second night, this is no longer discernible.

The seed-vessel is prickly, and, according to its original discoverers, grows to nearly the size of a child's head: the farinaceous seeds, of which it is full, are roasted by the natives of Guiana, and eaten as food; hence the plant has been called *water maize*, but more generally it is known in its native habitats by the name of *Irupé* or *Yrupé*, literally water-platter, because the leaves resemble the broad dishes used in that country.

Original Sketch.

LIFE'S CHANGES IN PRAIRIE LAND.

WRITTEN FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, BY AUNT ALICE.

It would take volumes to write all the changes that take place; why, only last week I knew a family whose "home circle" was unbroken, and now they have one vacant seat at their fireside—one loved one has been taken away, not by death, but a wish came into that young heart to try new scenes, and he has wandered far away, leaving sad hearts in his old home. Will he return spotless? will his bright smile again enliven the little circle he has left? or will contact with the "wide, wide world" crush that gay spirit, and harden that warm heart? Who can tell?

A cold winter has just passed, and early spring has come—no flowers yet, but a few weeks of pleasant weather will carpet our prairies with daisies and violets—and then laughing children will be seen gathering them. Dear little children, they always appear with the first blossoms. They have been cooped up all winter—and now they will come out, gay as larks, and ornamental as flowers. The little fingers that picked the first violet for me last year, will gather no more on earth; those nimble feet will no more skip about my garden, or scamper over the green prairie—those bright eyes will no more beam with delight as she returns laden with flowers. She passed away from earth ere the flowers she loved had faded. The evergreens she had planted in her little garden, have been transferred to deck her grave—and the violets will bloom there of their own accord, and the yellow daisies will shine like stars around her; her playmates will see them, but they will not remove one—they will whisper her name and say, "she loved them so."

We have some very bright changes, too, and very rapid ones; half-grown boys, who came here ignorant, rude, ragged, and dirty, are now bright and shining lights in our Lyceum. A few years in school, natural self-respect, true western independence, and freedom of speech, soon make men of them. Strangers will often ask, "Where were they educated?" And our

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home his bonny bride, many a fine ride did she have on your back, while the free winds, and your speed, soon made elfin locks of her glossy curls. Where is she now? Oh, she is here yet, but so changed. A perfect matron. Her boys have rode *double* on "old Chesnut," but they have given him up for *faster horses* long ago. And now this old faithful servant is turned out to live or die, as the case may be. Let me tell you, old horse, for your comfort, that you are not the only useless old body in our town.

Selected Sketch.

THE MONK'S PROPHECY.

It is now many years since that, while wandering through the lovely scenery in the South of England, I stopped to rest upon the dilapidated pedestal of a broken cross by the way-side. The day was bright and balmy, one in early June; and although the afternoon was considerably advanced, and the sun had been unclouded since morning, the air was neither hot nor oppressive. All the sweet summer flowers of the place and season were blooming in the hedge-rows around; and the atmosphere was perfumed with their delicious fragrance. Behind me, trickling as musically as a bird's song, fell a tiny stream, which, after staying a moment to coquet with some huge gray stones, danced off merrily, and hid itself in the myrtle-covered water-course by the road-side.

Absorbed in the enjoyments of the scene, upon whose quiet no human sound came trespassing, I sat until the long shadows of the beeches warned me that evening was approaching. With a lingering effort I was about to rise and proceed on my way, when the clear deep tones of a man's voice, singing the Stabat Mater, arrested my attention, and caused me to re-settle myself. Presently, turning the angle of the road a few yards from me, the singer appeared. He was very plainly attired, though in a somewhat peculiar fashion; which I, having been initiated abroad, recognized at once as that of a Roman Catholic priest. His step was free and light, his voice sonorous, and his age apparently about forty.

As he saw me he ceased singing, and was passing on with a slight inclination of the head, when I said:

"Pardon me, but you are the first person I

...

after; and then, if you wish, I will explain all you desire."

"I thank you heartily."

In less than five minutes we were in the little parlor. One glance at the table preparations, which were already made, informed me that it was a fast day with my companion. And I could not but admire the perfect absence of all embarrassment with which, without apology or explanation, he placed me at the board and served me from the same meagre dishes as himself. It was the perfection of good breeding; and I have never since heard the flimsy and vulgar excuse for a plainly furnished table, in which under-bred people indulge themselves, and torture their guests, without reverting in memory to that dish of radishes and lettuce, eggs and bread.

Supper was soon over; and then, unlocking a beautifully-carved ecclesiastical chest, which stood upon brackets in a recess of the room, the priest brought forth a huge vellum-bound volume, richly clasped.

"Here," said he, opening it, "is the solemn prophecy to which I alluded. This is the curse which in the year 1070 was pronounced upon the English monarchy by the suffering and persecuted Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury. From the day the malediction was spoken, even to the present, careful hands have registered its fulfilment. The book passes not from the custody of the order to which I belong; and to us it is intrusted to record the unfailing accomplishment of the archbishop's prophecy. See how the ink has changed its hue, preserved as it is from becoming utterly colorless by a secret process known only to ourselves. Observe the various characters in which the words are written. Are they not solemn to look upon—speaking, as they do, from the dead to the living? Listen."

And in a deep voice, sonorous and full as a cathedral bell, he read the following singular prophecy:

"The year 1070 is drawing rapidly to its close, and bears with it to the judgment Seat of Eternal Majesty, the blood-stained records of His Church's persecution. But even as its last sands are running out, and while the land still quivers to its centre for the deeds which have been done in it, the curse under which it shall henceforth labor has been spoken. From the Throne of Might has gone forth the malediction: and for the sin of the people of England and their conqueror, it is decreed that no more than three monarchs in direct succession

...

Our Correspondents

OLD WORLD SKETCHES.

[illegible]

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

HENRY PETERSON, EDITOR.

PHILADELPHIA:

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1854.

ALL THE CONTENTS OF THE POST ARE SET UP EXPRESSLY FOR IT, AND IT ALONE. IT IS NOT A MERE REPRINT OF A DAILY PAPER.

TERMS, &c.

The terms of the POST are $2, if paid in advance—$3, if not paid in advance. For $5 in advance, one copy is sent three years. We continue the following low terms to Clubs, to be sent in the city to one address, and in the country to one Post Office:

4 Copies,	$5,00	Per Annum.
8 " (and one to the getter up of the Club,)	$10,00	"
13 " (and one to the getter up of the Club,)	$15,00	"
20 " (and one to the getter up of the Club,)	$20,00	"

Additions to Clubs.—Any person having sent the money and names for a Club, may add new names to it at the same rate, provided the latter will allow their subscriptions to end at the same time those of the main list do. We will willingly supply the back numbers if we have them. Our object is to have all the subscriptions in each Club, end at the same time, and thus prevent confusion.

The Money for Clubs must always be sent in advance. When the sum is large, a draft should be procured, if possible—the cost of which may be deducted from the amount.

Post-Masters or others sending for Clubs, would confer a favor by having them sent to one address, when they can do so conveniently.

A New Arrangement.—Our subscribers will take notice that we now have no collecting [illegible]

[illegible]

OUR CONTRIBUTORS.

[illegible]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[illegible]

SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

[illegible]

New Publications.

[illegible]

Clippings.

FLOWERS.

[illegible]

NEW NURSERY SONG.

[illegible]

General News.

[illegible]

IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

More than eight closely printed columns of the London Times are filled with the "secret and confidential" correspondence of Sir G. H. Seymour, British Minister to St. Petersburg, and the home government, in the beginning of 1853.

The first is a letter from Sir G. H. S., to Lord John Russell, dated St. Petersburg, January 11, 1853. It describes an interview with the Emperor, at the Palace of the Grand Duchess Helen. The Czar congratulated him on the formation of the new British Ministry; assured him of his friendly feeling towards Lord Aberdeen, whom he had known for 40 years, and of his desire that Russia and England should continue to be on terms of close amity. [illegible] by the hand to take leave of him, Sir G. H. S., begged to renew the conversation, and asked him to add a few words with regard to Turkey. He hesitated a little, but at length added,—"The affairs of Turkey are in a very disorganized condition; the country itself seems to be falling to pieces; the fall will be a great misfortune, and it is very important that England and Russia should come to a perfectly good understanding upon these affairs, and that neither should take any decisive step of which the other is not apprised." He then added:—"We have upon our hands a man seriously sick; it will be, I say frankly, a great misfortune if, one of these days, he should escape us, especially before the necessary dispositions should have been made. But it is not now the time to speak of this." Sir G. H. Seymour replied that it was "the part of a brave and generous man to take care of a man sick and feeble;" after which the Emperor took leave of him, expressing the intention of sending for him again. The Minister concludes the letter by saying that the sum of the conversation appeared to be this:—That England has to desire a close concert with Russia, with a view to preventing the downfall of Turkey; while Russia would be well pleased that the concert should apply to the events by which this downfall is to be followed.

[illegible]

surprise, "but you must understand that when I speak of Russia, I speak of Austria as well; what suits the one suits the other; our interests as regards Turkey are perfectly identical." I should have been glad to make another inquiry or two upon this subject, but I did not venture to do so.

[illegible]

This quotation, which, by accident, I could make almost in the words of the letter, seemed to change the current of the Emperor's ideas.

"You are quite right," he said; "I remember the events to which my late brother alluded. Now it is perfectly true that the late Empress Catherine indulged in all sorts of visions of ambition, but it is not less so that these ideas are not at all shared by her descendants. You see how I am behaving towards the Sultan. This gentleman (ce monsieur) breaks his written word to me, and acts in a manner extremely displeasing to me, and I have contented myself with despatching an Ambassador to Constantinople to demand reparation. Certainly, I could send an army there if I chose—there is nothing to stop them; but I have [illegible]

[illegible]

This is the substance of this long correspondence, which will go far to elucidate the present state of things in Europe.

THE CUTTING AND BRECKENRIDGE DIFFICULTY.

The following, says the New York Herald, is the correspondence that passed between Messrs. Cutting and Breckenridge:

NO I.

MR. CUTTING TO MR. BRECKENRIDGE.

Washington, March 27, 1854.

Hon. J. C. Breckenridge—

Sir—In the course of the debate in the House this morning, in reply to what I considered to be a legitimate criticism upon your argument, you asserted that what I had said was false.

I now call upon you to retract this assertion, [illegible]

[illegible]

Congressional

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS. FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

[illegible]

General News.

[illegible]

SATURDAY EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA:

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1854.

Congressional News

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

On the 3d, the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union was reported by Mr. Dodge, instructed to that effect by the Committee on Territories. Mr. Douglas moved to print 20,000 extra copies of the bill, and Mr. Sumner moved to print 10,000 extra copies, and an equal number in German. Mr. Douglas's motion was agreed to, and Mr. Sumner's was laid on the table. Mr. Douglas moved to print 10,000 extra copies of the report, and Mr. Sumner moved to print 10,000 extra copies of the minority report, and an equal number in German. Mr. Douglas's motion was agreed to, and Mr. Sumner's was laid on the table.

On the 4th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 5th, Mr. Douglas, continuing the discussion of the Nebraska bill, said that he was aware that the bill would be met by the charge that it was a violation of the Missouri Compromise, and that the Missouri Compromise was a sacred thing, which must not be touched. He would meet that question now, and would not be compelled to do so hereafter. He would show that the Missouri Compromise was not only inoperative, but that it was inconsistent with the principles of the Constitution, and that it was void. He would show that it was inconsistent with the principles of the Constitution, and that it was void. He would show that it was inconsistent with the principles of the Constitution, and that it was void.

On the 6th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 7th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 8th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 9th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 10th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 11th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 12th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 13th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 14th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 15th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 16th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 17th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 18th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 19th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 20th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 21st, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 22d, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 23d, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 24th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 25th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 26th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 27th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 28th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 29th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 30th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 31st, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 1st, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 2d, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 3d, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 4th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill.

On the 5th, the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the admission of portions of Nebraska and Kansas into the Union, and Mr. Douglas addressed the Senate in support of the bill

Selected Poetry.

THE TWO ANGELS.

BY H. W. LONGFELLOW.

Two angels, one of Life and one of Death,
Passed o'er the village as the morning broke;
The dawn was clear, the sun's first golden breath
Rich with the balm of flowers and dew of showers;
The fields were green beneath.

The angel of Death spread wide his wings
And on the sleeping village cast a gloom;
But the angel of Life shook out the golden rings
And over roof and field and tree
Filled the whole air with warmth and light and glee,
And where he passed there was no room
For tears or mourning or lamentation.

Then with a smile, that was a sunbeam reflected from his face,
Unto the other, he said, "Sister, well is it with your task?"
"My errand is not Death, but Life," he said;
And then in accents hushed and soft
Asked, "Is the spirit willing?"

And the other answered, "It is not."

"Twice at my door has Death been with me of late,
Twice has he entered in and left unscathed;
The seal upon my lips remains to be unbroken,
Pleasure and pain still work within me."

"Brother," the angel of Death replied,
"Even as the Master shall command, so shall it be;
Behold, I come and go at his behest,
And where I enter there remains a blessing
Long after I depart."

Then both their garments touched with holiness,
And through the casement passed into the room
Where the dead lay, and where the living were,
Weeping and wailing for their first-born child.
And the angel of Life said, "Let there be light!"
And there was light.

Over the sleeping babe he bent and touched
The waxen eyelids, and the sightless balls
Beneath shone forth, and fixed upon the living
Looked out intelligent.

Then the angel of Death
Said, "Let there be silence!" and the sobs
Of the afflicted mother ceased, and all
Her pangs were soothed, and she spake no more
Of life or death, but looked and was content.

And the two angels issued forth again
Into the air, and the sun shone once more
Upon the village as it rose that day.

Selected Articles.

AN EPISODE
OF THE
FRENCH INVASION OF SPAIN.

The Spanish campaign was opened by the French under favorable circumstances. The Imperial troops marched into Spain as friends, not as enemies, and were lodged in pacific three family. Small and feeble had the Spanish army become. Torrijos and the Empecinado, the Merinos, Mina, Miller and Taylor, who conducted their experiments with so much chivalry and caution the year before, rather than the admiration, of their contemporaries! Where were all the educated engineers of England during those twenty-three years of peace? Where were all the educated engineers of Spain? Where were the intelligent generals of the two countries? Dormant and Badajos. In the latter position he sustained two months from the combined troops of Wellington and Beresford; and the Duke, having recovered the Castellano, and thinking it now settled, and to secure the communication with Seuth and Retreat offered him, retreated into Portugal. Spain, taken by storm in all directions, was conquered, but not subjugated.

From day to day the war assumed a character more and more alarming to the invaders. The French army had to struggle with the bold and enterprising guerrillas, who were backed and urged on by the English troops. The whole country rose under the impulse of the same sentiment. An implacable hatred, inflamed by religious enthusiasm, fiercely burned in every breast. No hope for the soldier who strayed from the ranks! He was sure to fall by the Spaniard's knife. Numerous inscriptions had broken out at different points, and the Emperor was anxious to put an end to this unpromising state of things. He recalled from Boulogne the body of troops which was still encamped there, and commanded them to cross the Pyrenees. Soult received the left the shores of the Channel and proceeded to Spain, by forced marches, in three distinct divisions. The two first, after encountering difficulties, joined Soult at Tarragon, where that intrepid General was his Wonderful talent. The second division was composed of the 12th Light Infantry, and the 102nd of the Line. They stopped several weeks at St. Sebastian, and then continued their march, in order to affords junction with the army which had just succeeded Blake's abandon his camp, entrenched behind the Guadalavier, and to throw himself into Valencia.

The two regiments had gone through a most interesting thorough an abandoned and devastated country. Nevertheless, they preserved their gaiety with the gaiety which is the peculiar characteristic of French soldiers. They had successfully crossed the Ebro, and were only a few days' journey from a detachment of the main body of the army. The General in the command of them was desirous of avoiding a mountainous gorge, where he had reason to fear a guerilla attack. The path which he followed was scarcely passable; and after a continuous march of twelve hours, they reached a village, exhausted with fatigue and half dead with hunger. They searched the houses; but they found them deserted and empty, without a morsel of provision. At the approach of the French, the Spaniards destroyed every article which they could not carry off with them.

Several men were dispatched to make disposition in the neighborhood. In the course of an hour, they returned. the bearers of welcome news. They had found, close by, a Convent of Dominican Monks. The General ordered his troops to proceed in that direction, and, accompanied by several officers, resolved to ascertain in person if he were likely to receive any aid from the reverend Fathers.

The Superior received them graciously. He was a man some fifty years of age, with a lean and long countenance, a bald forehead, a grizzly beard, and glittering eyes. His features were still impressed with the severities of the visit. Just passions which had agonized his youth.

"You are welcome, *Messrs. Les Français*," said Father Antonio. "We are men of peace. We are strangers to the war which is devastating our country, and we deplore its evils. But we only look on you as brethren, whom we are happy to comfort and assist."

The General had already had reason to know something of the extent to which the monks exercised their Immoral patriotism. He therefore did not put complete reliance in this apparently amicable reception.

"I shall place," added the Dominican, "everything the Convent contains at the disposal of your brave soldiers. In the name of this farne, General, to take up your quarters here, with your staff. I will now give orders to prepare your repast, which shall be a good one."

"I accept your offer, *Monsieur le Superieur*; and I hope that you will do me the pleasure to join our mess, together with three or four of your brethren."

"It is impossible to decline the invitation with which you honor us. We shall be proud to keep you company."

These words, spoken with an air of sincerity, partially removed the General's suspicions. At the same time, he resolved to be upon his guard, and to take every possible precaution.

At the hour appointed, the General and twenty officers proceeded to the Convent. The Superior, with three other monks, awaited them in the refectory, where the table was laid with lucurious elegance. He begged the French to take their seats, and then invoked the Almighty's blessing on the food they were about to enjoy.

The General had previously advised his staff not to touch any dish till after the monks had first partaken of it. Father Antonio seemed to have guessed their tactics, and to meet them poignantly: for he had the liveliest appetite, jestingly with a hearty appetite, and ate drank with equal zest. The meats were of the best, the wines exquisite. The Superior did no honors of the feast with singularly seamless courtesy. His face wore a constant gaiety, ascended in banishing all the apprehensions of the French. They continually expressed their confidence in the monks with a cordial exception, as far beyond what they had any right to expect.

At dessert, the General proposed the health of Father Antonio and the other monks. The flattered at the Superior become darkly clouded, and the paleness of death overspread his countenance. His eyes rolled in their sockets fire. He passed himself out a goblet of wine, and, rising, said:

"I gladly comply, gentlemen, at the honor you do us in drinking that toast. Allow me to propose one in return: "The utter extermination of the French!"

The four monks filled their glasses, and deliberately emptied them to the very last drop.

"Thy repast," added Father Antonio, "is the last you will ever make on earth! You are all poisoned! It is thus that a Spaniard knows his vengeance!"

These words struck the French like a thunderbolt. They hastily rose to their feet, but the Dominicans motioned them to sit down.

"Wretches, your moments are numbered! What will it serve you to spill our blood? Before you can reach the door, you will have fallen dead! Miserable parricides! If you have any last wishes to express, any last prayer to offer, speak quickly, for you have only half an hour to live! Your bodies will not have a single interment, and, therefore, will be left unburied, to the vultures!"

The Surgeon-Major instantly Appointed, and set to work for emetics. He did not return; and the Spaniards had no notice. Father Antonio had spoken the truth. The poison had mixed all the officers were corpses before an hour had elapsed. The Dominicans then plundered the convent, and fled to the mountains.

STEAM NAVIGATION.

FROM AN ARTICLE IN "BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE."

The whole country of the history of steam navigation to the year 1812, when Henry Bell, of Helensburgh, launched the first vessel of the kind, called the Comet, and of the first experiments made by Fulton, in the United States, from 1807 to 1812, is a most interesting narrative. Abandoned by most of subscribers, it was to the enthusiasm and perseverance of a few individuals, and by them pushed on in the face of every kind of difficulty and discouragement, that we owe the introduction of this mighty power into universal employment. The first steamboats were built and worked by ordinary mechanics, with no knowledge of the principles of the foolish experimentalist, with a steam engine of their own making, (for which they were laughed,) gives the young Republic of the West the glory of first really realizing the mighty invention. Very great difficulty in bringing any British like the child, trampling the price out means. Bell, who unquestionably had the merit of first making the practical discovery in 1811, having exhausted his means in the construction of the Comet, and experiment, it has been stated by his son, that he had spent fully £20,000 in projects of a purely public nature, including what would appear to have been the only one penny of requital we ever remember to have heard of his having got from the public. Taylor died in depressed circumstances in 1824, leaving a widow with some daughters, and to those few gentlemen arrangements the nation has generously awarded a pension of *fifty pounds a year!* The first vessel, they say, that ever navigated the ocean was the Savannah, which sailed from Liverpool in 1820, and reached New York in twenty-six days. What is an enormous voyage, being apparently beyond their capabilities. Their effect by quickening and extending commerce is thus described by Mr. Huskisson:

The prospects of even sentient warfare, have been wholly changed by the application of steam. How curious to trace back its genealogy through the muddled channels of Symington and Bell, Fulton and Livingstone, Stevens and Williams, and Taylor, who conducted their experiments with something like chemistry and method rather than the admiration, of their contemporaries! Where were all the educated engineers of England during those twenty-three years of peace? Where were all the educated engineers of Spain? Where were the intelligent generals of the two countries? Dormant and Badajos. In the latter position he sustained two months from the combined troops of Wellington and Beresford; and the Duke, having recovered the Castellano, and thinking it now settled, and to secure the communication with Seuth and Retreat offered him, retreated into Portugal. Spain, taken by storm in all directions, was conquered, but not subjugated.

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THE TWO WIVES.

"I was a very much in love with Ellen Grey, and she with me. Her father was a rich man, and I was a poor one. He would not consent to our marriage, and I was forbidden the house. Ellen and I met, however, and loved each other more than ever